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St. Paul Methodist Church

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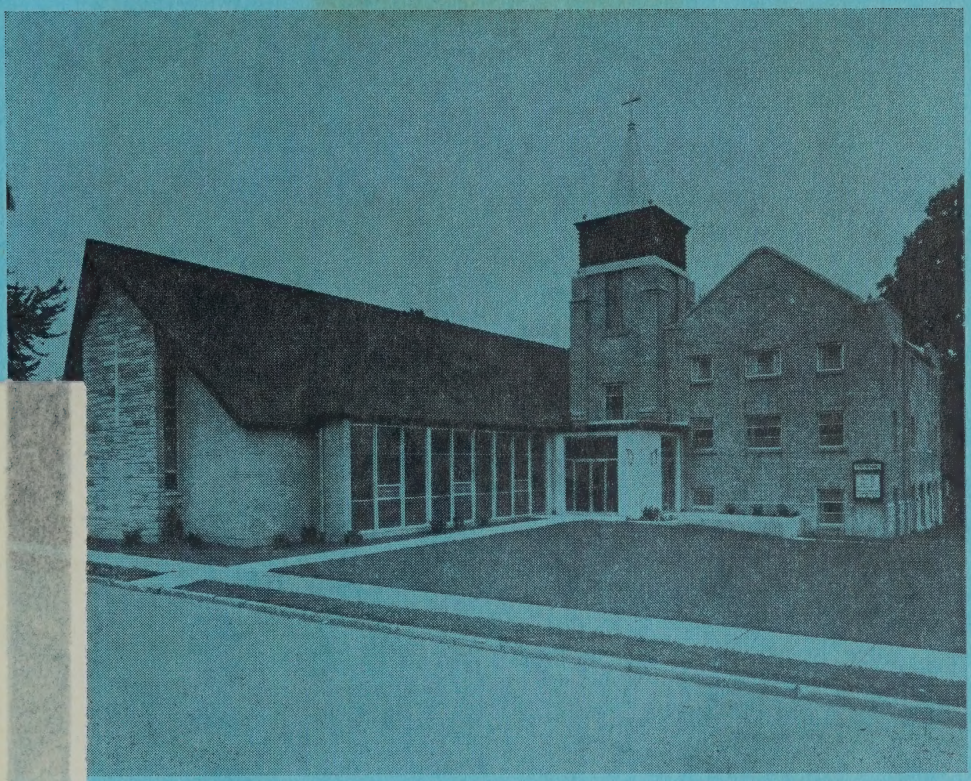

St. Paul Methodist Church

Corner of Pittsburg and Lumbard Streets Fort Wayne, Indiana

Our Diamond Anniversary

EARL W. SHARP, Minister

RICHARD BAXTER, Editor

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OF LOYAL SERVICE

Richard C. Raines ..... Bishop

Dr. Byron F. Stroh ..... Executive Assistant to Bishop

Dr. Donald E. Bailey ..... Superintendent, Fort Wayne District

Rev. Earl W. Sharp ..... Minister, St. Paul

We reverently and joyously commemorate the seventy-fifth Anniversary of the St. Paul Methodist Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana

Our Past is History. Our Future lies Ahead. We face it unafraid.

The Editor

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Harold Bainbridge, Chairman
Richard Baxter, Editor
Clifford Baxter
O. H. Richardson
Rev. Earl W. Sharp

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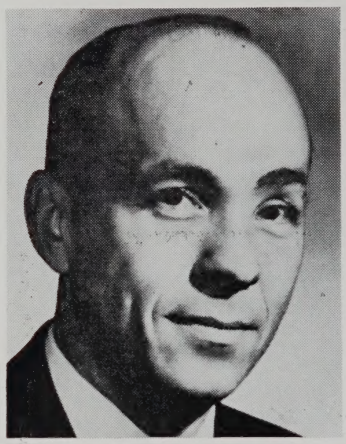
A WORD FROM OUR SPEAKER



DR. BYRON F. STROH

My heartiest congratulations to you on your 75th Diamond Anniversary. God has surely blessed you abundantly and used you mightily in the building of His kingdom.

The witness of St. Paul Methodist Church to Christ's power to transform and their obedience to His leadership has been an inspiration to thousands. My warmest regards and best wishes as St. Paul begins another seventy-five years of Loyal Service.

Most cordially
Byron F. Stroh

A WORD FROM OUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

DR. DONALD E. BAILEY

It is with great satisfaction that I extend to St. Paul Methodist Church my heartiest congratulations on the achievement of 75 years of noble service to the Kingdom of God. What an honor you have been given to render such a significant witness through all these years to the love and to the power of God. This kind of testimony is timeless and is greatly needed now as ever.

May your people be especially sensitive to God's rich blessing in these days as the memories of the yesterdays bring reinforcement to your efforts now.

Within the Methodist Family of the Fort Wayne District, we are proud of our history and are grateful for this moment in the life of your fellowship. May God continue to bless and use you mightily in the days to come.

Most sincerely your co-worker,
Donald E. Bailey

A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Rev. Earl W. Sharp

St. Paul Methodist Church is named for one of the greatest persons in the New Testament outside of Jesus. It was Paul who said, "For me to live is Christ . " Just as the Apostle Paul was a witness for His Christ, so has St. Paul Methodist church been a living witness to those of all ages.

What is the church? The real church consists of all who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ as His disciples and are ONE with Him in love. I am sure I would have enjoyed knowing Charles N. Noble, the first Sunday School Superintendent at St. Paul. I'd like to be able to talk with each pastor who has served St. Paul Church through the years. Each would have something to tell me about the devoted Christian men and women who have been the church.

What is our church today? We have a great heritage in our lovely sanctuary and serviceable educational building. The spacious parking lot that has just been completed is already proving to be a help to our people. The Official Board is looking ahead to the next 5 to 10 years with building plans which include a parsonage and a bulletin board. Also long-range plans are being formulated for membership, Sunday School and how best to minister to the area in which St. Paul is located. However, our church is more than brick and motar; it is the men and women, the boys and girls who devotedly serve their Master.

What will St. Paul be 25 years from now when we observe our centennial? It will depend upon the quality of our living and commitment today. We need to be winning others for Christ now. We need to send out from St. Paul a young person as a missionary or minister.

continued on page 16

PREPARATORY MEMBERS

Adams, Gregory
Antoine, Ricky
Armstrong, Shelly
Arney, David
Arney, Joan
Arney, John
Arney, Pattie

Baer, Cathy
Baer, Jeffrey
Baer, Joseph
Baer, William
Bailey, Kenneth, Jr.
Bailey, Michael
Bainbridge, Kathleen
Bainbridge, Marc
Baumgartner, Gale
Baxter, Douglas
Baxter, Kevin
Baxter, Michael
Beers, David
Bender, Jeffery
Bender, Steven
Black, Garry
Blake, Ruth
Blaugh, Gregory
Blaugh, Michael
Blaugh, Richard
Blauvelt, Gary
Bissell, Rex
Bongioanni, Michael
Bonham, Judith
Bonham, Kathy
Bond, Jean
Buck, Bruce
Buck, Bryan
Buckley, Cheryl
Brecht, Alice
Brecht, Carolyn
Brecht, Donald
Brochouse, Brent
Brockhouse, Kimberlee
Brockhouse, Mark
Brockway, Debra
Brockway, Kenneth
Brockway, Vivian
Brown, Brett
Brown, Bryan
Bryant, Barbara

Cannaday, David
Carpenter, Darrelyn
Carpenter, Ken
Carpenter, Rebecca
Carpino, Judy
Carpino, Karen
Clark, Christopher
Clem, Deanna
Click, Michael

Collier, Cahy
Collier, Cindy
Colderbanb, Kathryn
Crance, Debra

Daves, Karen
Davis, Garry
Davis, Dennis

Ellenwood, Phillip
Elzey, Kathleen
Elzey, Nancy
Elzey, Richard

Foster, Carol

Gaunt, Rose
Gaunt, Steven
Gross, Judith
Gross, Philip
Gross, William
Gustin, Dorothy

Hagerman, Charles Jr.,
Hagerman, Gloria
Haydock, Pamela
Harnish, Donna
Hart, Reuben Jr.,
Helmick, Walter
Hemker, Jerry
Hetrick, Anthony
Hartsough, Arthur Jr.,
Hartsough, Mary
Hartsough, Pennie
High, Keith
High, Kim
Hill, Debra
Hoeppner, Brian
Hoeppner, Jeffery
Hoeppner, Jenifer
Hoeppner, Matt
Hoeppner, Mitchell
Huett, Virginia
Hughes, Donna

James, Archie
James, Betsy
Jenkins, David
Jenkins, Leann
Jenkins, Sharon
Jenkins, William
Jones, Connie
Johnson, Gregory
Johnson, Patricia

Keener, David
Keener, Kenneth
Keener, Steven
Keller, John

Keller, Nancy
Keller, Patricia
Kincaid, Dean
Kirlen, Cynthia
Koble, Paul
Kreischer, Donald
Kreischer, Pamela
Krill, Dianna

Lee, Frederick
Lee, Richard
Lefevra, Ray
Lester,Gay
Linder, Lee
Linder, Lynn
Linn, Darleen
Lombard, Scott
Love, Carolyn
Luce, Tamara
Luce, Nancy

Manter, Edward
March, Monica
March, Shirley
March, Stephanie
Matthews, Cynthia
McMinn, Nancy
Meyers, Carol
Moering, Machella
Moering, Marc
Minser, Janice
Minser, Jean
Minser, Terry
Myers, Steven

Neer, Eugene
Neiswonger, Caron
Neumann, Claudia
Neumann, Kahleen
Neumann, Norman
Nicole, Barbara
Nicole, Charles
Nicole, Frederick
Nicole, Jack

Oberkiser, Timothy
Oberkiser, Trudy
Osman, Frederick Jr.,
Parker, Ralph
Peters, Bruce
Piebinga, Della
Poiry, Patricia
Poiry, Stephan
Poiry, Susan
Patter, Walter

Rahrer, Gregory
Rahrer, Mark
Rasor, Gordon

PREPARATORY MEMBERS (cont'd

Rasor, Mark
Rasor, Michael
Rasor, Steven
Ray, Anna
Reed, Barbara
Reed, Eugene
Reed, Michael
Reese, Geraldine
Reese, Linda
Renthrow, Judith
Renthrow, Michael
Roe, Cheryle
Roe, Rolla
Rogers, Robert
Rogers, William
Runkle, Davie

Schibley, Lamarr
Schibley, Omar
Screeton, Cathy
Screeton, Steven
Sheets, Douglas
Sheets, Gregory
Sheets, Jeffery
Sheets, Linda
Shively, Steven
Simpson, Denise
Simpson, Daniel
Simpson, Jill
Simpson, Julie
Simpson, Cheryle
Simpson, Diana
Simpson, Katherine
Simpson, Lawrence
Simpson, Robert
Smith, Barbara
Smith, Cheryl
Sparks, Denis
Sparks, Rebecca
Stoner, Kevin
Stoner, Patrick
Stoner, Steven
Stovall, James
Straley, Connie
Straley, John
Strong, Cynthia

Tee, Cheryl
Tegtmeyer, Karen
Thomas, Cindy
Thomas, Pamela
Thomas, Patricia
Thomas, William
Thomas, Rhonda

van der Smissen, Alan
van der Smissen, Linda
Van Horn, Rebecca
Vincenski, Kevin

Weaver, Charles
Witte, Brian
Witte, Michael
Worden, Sandra
Worman, Glenna

Young, Marcia
Young, Michael

MEMBERSHIP ROLL

Adams, Floyd, Ruth
Adams, Linda
Adams, Myrtle
Agee, Helen
Anderson, Sarah
Antoine, Helen
Antoine, Lelah
Armstrong, Flora
Armstrong, Kenneth, Carolyn
Arney, Helena

Baer, Lowell, Jeanine
Bainbridge, Harold, Lucille
Bainbridge, Gordon
Bainbridge, Michael
Bainbridge, Jonathon
Bainbridge, Kenneth, Wanda
Bainbridge, Kent
Baker, Gladys
Bauermeister, Paul, Mabel
Baumgartner, Gale, Myrna
Baumgartner, Homer, Rubye
Baulky, William
Baxter, Clifford, Ellen
Baxter, Ronald
Baxter, Richard H.
Baxter, Elaine
Bazin, Kay
Beatty, Owen, Pearl
Beck, Mabel
Beers, Helen
Beers, John, Carol
Bender, Sue
Benner, Robert, Eileen
Besore, Olive
Bickel, Ralph, Berniece
Black, Robert, Helen
Blaugh, Thomas, Phillis
Blaugh, Steve
Blauvelt, Earl, Ruby
Blauvelt, Alice, Larry
Bliss, Emmitt, Elizabeth
Bogan, Kenneth, Mary
Bogan, Sharon
Bogear, Beverly
Bonham, Gertrude Mark
Bongioanni, Ruth
Bouillon, Nettie
Bowers, Bernice
Braden, Charles, Janice
Brockway, Claude, Virginia
Brooks, Charles, Marie
Brooks, Carl, Gwendolyn
Brown, John R., Bernice
Bryant, Lorene
Bryant, Caryl
Buck, Edward, Marietta
Buck, Bernard
Bunnell, Freda
Burgette, Edna

Cannaday, Leroy, Lillian
Cannaday, Steven
Cannaday, Deborah
Cannaday, Bridget
Castator, Max, Thelma
Carpenter, Ruth Ann
Castator, John
Chilcote, Harvey, Hazel
Chilcote, Robert
Christlieb, Wilma
Clevenger, Edith
Clevenger, James
Clossen, Mildred
Colderbank, Mildred
Conner, Connie
Conner, Keith
Conn, Clifford, Pirly
Crance, Lillian

MEMBERSHIP ROLL (cont'd)

Cunningham, Travis, Dorothy
Current, Jessie, Roi Elaine

Davies, William, Lenora
Davis, John, Judy
Dennis, Hattie
DeWitte, David, Gertrude
Dilbone, Ottis, Flora
Dirr, Alma, Larry
Doan, Arthur, Jr.

Eddy, Richard
Ellenwood, Cornelieus
Ellenwood, Howard, Myrtle
Ellenwood, Thomas
Ellenwood, Leonard, Annetta
Ellenwood, Martin, Irene
Ernst, Leah, Steven

Faulkner, Lewis, Dorothy
Finton, Ray
Finton, Armeda
Finton, Robert
Finton, Patty
Foreman, Mary
Fortney, Jessie
Fortney, Sam, Lillian
Foster, Phyllis
Francis, Jack, Sue
Freck, Kendall
Freck, Nora
Frederick, William, Alice

Gaunt, Frank
Gaunt, Eulalia
Gephart, Carol Ann
Gephart, George
Gill, Freeda James
Gosda, Margaret
Graham, Hubert, Della
Graham, Vivian
Green, Lloyd, Marilyn
Greulach, Selma
Guenther, Ruby
Gustenslager, Jennie

Hamman, Charles, Pearl
Hampel, Loretta
Hancher, Cheryl
Harding, Jeanette
Hardwick, Clifford, Jessie
Harnish, Russell
Hartsaugh, Arthur, Madelyn
Hatch, Rosellen
Harrold, Lucinda
Henderson, Fay
Hetrick, Richard, Joyce
Hiatt, Merrill, Martha
Hiatt, Ronald
High, Delphis, Connie
Hill, June
Hoeppner, Neal, Patty
Hoeppner, Esther
Hoke, Melvin, Violet
Hoke, Norman
Hoke, Ralph
Holcolm, Gertrude
Howell, Barbara Ann
Huett, Pearl
Huett, Jeanet
Huett, Lynn
Hudson, Georgia
Huffman, Bernice
Hughes, David E.

James, Archie, Imogene
Jenkins, William, Darlene
Johnson, Eva
Johnson, Robert, Betty
Jones, Elbert, Pauline
Jones, Steven Ray
Jurecic, Donna May

Kain, Bernard, Jr., Diane
Kain, Lileth
Keener, Delwin, Jr., Alice
Kepfer, Goldie
Knight, James, Jeanette
Kreischer, Grace
Krill, Geneva
Kryder, Russell, Naomi
Kurtz, Paul, Lula
Kurtz, Robert

Lamont, Laura
Lee, Floyd, Thelma
Lee, Carol
Lee, Cheryl
Lee, Raymond, Margaret
Lefevra, Albert, Betty
Leonard, Harvey, Grace
Linder, Jack, Janet
Long, Loraine
Love, Barbara
Luce, Barbara
Lupke, Alice

Macy, Clarence, Ruby
Macy, Robert
Mansfield, Jack, Grace
Martin, Arnold, Kay
Martin, Charles, Minnie
Martin, Delia
Martin, Walter, Joyce
Martin, Jo Ann
Mason, George, Frances
Mauck, Edith
Mills, Earl, Juanetta
Mills, Ronald
Mills, Douglas
Moering, Bonnie
Moore, Harold, Nellie
Moore, Verne, Barbara
Morningstar, Sarah
Mumy, Ervilla
Murdoch, Archie, Renee
McClellan, Wayne

Neal, Helen
Neff, Norma
Neher, Hugh, Alien
Neher, Ronald
Neher, Sam, Luella
Neiswonger, Joe, Jr.
Newman, William, Carol
Nicole, Jack, Norma
Nicole, Naomi
Noble, Lucy

Oberkiser, Loann
Odier, Barbara
Oliver, Howard, Jr., Ahleen
Otterman, Luna

Peel, Opal
Pierce, Mary
Poiry, Pete, Jr. Lillian

MEMBERSHIP ROLL (cont'd)

Radabaugh, Ora
Rahrer, Virginia
Rasor, Art, Beverly
Rasor, Cecil
Rasor, Sarah
Rasor, Kenneth
Reed, Elba
Reese, Frances
Reynolds, Audrey, Craig
Rice, Margaret
Rice, Lillian
Richard, Darwin, Erma
Richards, Rega
Richardson, O. H., Mary
Richardson, Blanche
Ridenour, Opal
Robinson, Bernice
Roeback, Lela
Ross, Dorothy

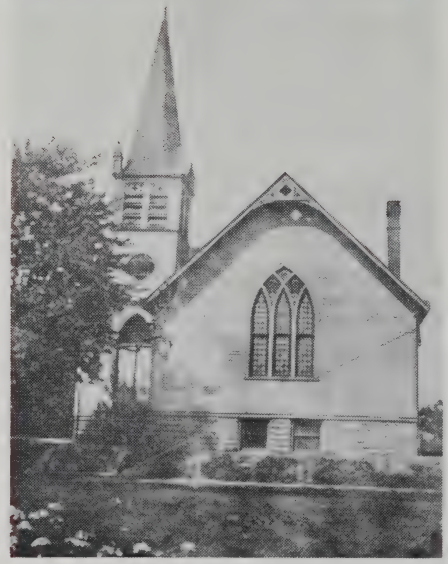
Salzbrenner, Alma
Schibley, Olen, Jimetta
Schibley, Lynlee
Schnepp, Kenneth, Frances
Screeton, Nancy
Seiders, Lydia
Sellars, Russell, Janet
Sevcik, Tom, Ann
Sharp, Veral, James
Shaw, Ray, Beatrice
Shea, Lillian
Sheets, Della
Sheets, Wayne, Carol Ann
Shelly, Julius, Esther
Simpson, Don, Jane
Simpson, James, Anna Mae
Simpson, Paul, Linda
Smith, Agnes, Richard
Smith, Dallas, Marcia
Smith, Estella
Smith, Elmer Jr., Marjorie
Smith, Lula
Smith, Olive
Snyder, James, Alama
Stafford, Virgil, Esther
Sparks, Donald, Mary
Sparks, Diane
Sparks, Lloyd, Shirley
Sprinkle, Richard
Sprinkle, Billie Ann
Sprinkle Mary
Sprinkle, Gregory
Stable, Sharon
Staley, Strother, Blanche
Stevens, Esther, Don
Stevenson, Harold, Georgia
Stevenson, Keith
Steward, Jessie
Stile, Leila
Stoner, Albert, Lydia
Stoner, Richard, Sally
Storch, Clara
Stovall, Louise
Strong, Marilyn
Swafford, Lewis, Alice

Tegtmeyer, Gerald, Helen
Tegtmeyer, Mary Ann
Tevis, Curtis, Ann
Thomas, Hubert, Mabel
Thomas, William
Thompson, Elsie
Thompson, Betty
Tillman, Burl, Lucille
Tillman, Jack D.
Tillman, Roger Lee
Todd, Rosalie
Tombaugh, John, Irene
Tombaugh, Larry
Treesh, Lillian
Tumbleson, Oma
van der Smissen, Richard, Christine
van der Smissen, Jane
Vincenski, Nick, Wilma
Vincenski, Larry
Vincenski, Monte
Vodde, Richard, Ruth
Vodde, James
Vodde, LeAnna
Wedertz, Robert, Maxine
Waren, Sandra
Weaver, Peggy Ann
Wedertz, Larry
Wehremeister, Emma
Wheeler, Merrell, Joyce
Whiting, Betty
Willen, Ola
Winsemann, Anna
Witte, Kenneth, Deloris
Worman, Clifford, Ruth
Worman, Marion, Minnie
Woronuk, Reginald
Yarman, Leona
Young, James, Edith
Zimmerman, Jim, Janas
Zimmerman, Christine
Zuber, Lola

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THANKS

Many have helped to make this Anniversary Booklet possible. I would like to thank the Anniversary Committee for their helpful suggestions and fine co-operation. Mrs. Max Castator deserves thanks for her many hours of typing. Thanks goes to Jon Stevenson who did some very fast and excellent work on photos. Thanks be to God for a church like St. Paul that we can be proud of for her many years of loyal service.

The Editor



ST. PAUL, ANTHONY BLVD.

St. Paul Methodist Church, 1889-1928, on Anthony Boulevard. Church was enlarged in 1911 to seat five hundred and fifty persons.

ST. PAUL SANCTUARY

Sanctuary of St. Paul that was converted during recent building program into one large classroom, chapel and pastor's study. The chapel was furnished with the same pews and chancel drapes that were in the old sanctuary.

GROUNDBREAKING

Rev. L. Lyle Case turns the first shovel of dirt during groundbreaking services. Also taking part in these ceremonies are from left to right, Douglas Baxter, Clifford Baxter, Helen Orr, Wanda Bainbridge, Wayne Davis, Harvey Chilcote, Sam Neher, Richard van der Smissen, Dr. Byron F. Stroh, Richard Stoner, O. H. Richardson, and Robert Finton.

CONSTRUCTION

Taken during the period of construction of new sanctuary and educational unit.

LYLE AND HARRY

Rev. L. Lyle Case, on left, and Rev. Harry Hashberger meet and discuss their pastoral years while at St. Paul

OFFICERS OF ST. PAUL METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES

1965 Robert Macy (Chairman)

1963 Clifford Baxter
1963 Strother Staley
1963 John Tombaugh
1964 Harvey Chilcote
1964 Max Castator
1964 Richard van der Smissen
1965 Harold Bainbridge
1965 Richard Stoner

STEWARDS

Robert Johnson (Chairman)

Lowell Baer
Mrs. Harold Bainbridge
Kenneth Bainbridge
Mrs. Kenneth Bainbridge
Michael Bainbridge
Clifford Baxter
Owen Beatty
Ralph Bickel
Mrs. Tom Blaugh
Kenneth Bogan
Claude Brockway
Leroy Cannaday
Max Castator
Mrs. Max Castator
Harvey Chilcote
Mrs. Harvey Chilcote
Mrs. Edith Clevenger
Hubert Graham
Neal Hoeppner
Mrs. Norbert Huett
Archie James
Mrs. Robert Johnson
Bernard Kain
Mrs. Lileth Kain
Delwin Kenner, Jr.
Russell Kryder
Albert Lefevra
Delia Martin
Art Rasor
O. H. Richardson
James Simpson
Paul Simpson
Nick Vincenski
Kenneth Witte
Mrs. Kenneth Witte
James Young

TREASURERS

Church Financial Secretary .....O. H. Richardson

Church Treasurer .....Albert Lefevra

Building Fund Financial Secretary .....O. H. Richardson

Building Fund Treasurer .....Harvey Chilcote

Parking Lot Financial Secretary .....Clifford Baxter

Parking Lot Treasurer .....Richard van der Smissen

OFFICERS OF ST. PAUL METHODIST CHURCH

COMMISSION CHAIRMEN

Membership and Evangelism .....Mrs. Norbert Huett
Education .....Neal Hoeppner
Missions .....Miss Delia Martin
Stewardship and Finance .....Harvey Chilcote
Christian Social Concerns .....Mrs. Lileth Kain

OTHER OFFICIALS

Lay Leader .....Max Castator
Church School Superintendent .....Clifford Baxter
President of W.S.C.S. .....Mrs. Max Castator
President of Methodist Men .....Hubert Graham
President of M.Y.F. .....Michael Bainbridge
President of Wesleyan Service Guild .....Mrs. Helen Null
Lay Member .....Mrs. Kenneth Bainbridge
Reserve Lay Member .....Mrs. Max Castator

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Lay Leader .....Max Castator
President of W.S.C.S. .....Mrs. Max Castator
Lay Member .....Mrs. Kenneth Bainbridge
Church School Superintendent .....Clifford Baxter
Chairman of Official Board .....Richard Stoner
Chairman of Trustees .....Robert Macy
President of Methodist Men .....Hubert Graham
Chairman of Stewards .....Robert Johnson
President of M.Y.F. .....Michael Bainbridge

M.Y.F. SPONSORS

Senior M.Y.F. .....Mr. and Mrs. James Simpson, Veral Sharp
Richard Baxter

Junior M.Y.F.....Mr. and Mrs. Merrell Wheeler, Bonnie Drudge

HISTORY OF ST. PAUL METHODIST CHURCH

On the evening of May 24, 1738, John Wesley, who had already been to an afternoon vesper service in St. Paul's Cathedral where the choir had sung a chant of the 130th Psalm, went"very unwillingly"to the meeting of "a society in Aldersgate Street". The leader of the meeting read Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans. This is the way in which Wesley describes the effect this reading had on him.

"About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ alone, for my salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death . . .I began to pray with all my might . . I then testified openly to all there what now I first felt in my heart."

From this experience, God raised him up to spread"a blanket of spiritual awareness" over the land. In 1776 Methodism was brought from England to New York by Phillip Embury. In that same year Robert Strawbridge brought Methodism to Maryland. In 1803 Peter Cartwright preached the first Methodist sermon in Indiana.

Methodism was introduced into Fort Wayne in 1827 by Rev. John Strange, presiding elder, Madison district, Illinois Conference, which embraced a large portion in the state of Indiana. In 1829 the Rev. N. B. Griffith was appointed to the Ft. Wayne mission and the following year a class of five persons was organized to which were added four others within a year. They met in homes and rented halls until 1840, when a net frame church, 36 x 50 feet, was built, known as Berry Street Church, now First Church. In 1849 Wayne Street Church was organized and met in the Methodist College Hall until their church was erected the following year. In 1866 Centinary Church, now Simpson, was organized in the southern part of the city. In 1876 Third Street Church, now Trinity, was built in the northern part of the city.

On a hot, sultry, July Sunday afternoon, in 1887, a faithful pastor, serving the New Haven Church, walked into the east side of Fort Wayne, spied Charles N. Noble sitting on his porch and inquired where Methodist services could be held in this part of the city. Mr. Noble, who became the first Sunday School Superintendent, accompanied the inquiring minister, the Rev. M. C. Cooper, to the home of Mrs. William Habecker, who in the capacity of School Trustee, readily consented to the use of a little red-brick school house, located on Wayne Trace, and later used as a residence. Fifty persons

met the following Sunday for Sunday School and worship. Each sucessive Sunday the attendance increased. The church organization was perfected, December 18, 1887, by Dr.J. H. Bayless, with a membership of seven.

Among the many duties of the newly organized church was the purchasing of a bell which would call the people together to worship God for all the wonder He had wrought. In 1887 the McShane Bell Foundry of Baltimore, Maryland was selected to cast a bell for our new church. Stamped on this bell, which is still being used to call people together, is this inscription:

For
St. Paul M.E. Church
A.D. 1887
M. C. Cooper, Pastor

In raised letters on the other side of the bell is the date the bell was cast and the foundry which cast the bell. The total weight of the bell is 600 pounds.

By January 15, 1888, Pastor Cooper reported sixty enthustastic and active members, most of whom were young men. Within a year and a half a modest frame church was errected on Walton Avenue, now Anthony Boulevard, which in 1911 was enlarged and improved to a very commodious steam heated building. This building was purchased by the General Electric Company and later demolished. In 1923 the present church site was purchased at the corner of Pittsburgh at Lumbard Street. Five years later the congregation vacated their church home on Anthony Street and worshipped for a time in the McCullough School Building while their temporary tabernacle was being erected across Pittsburg Street from present location. This tabernacle contained a large auditorium, office, class rooms, and kitchen, which they occupied until 1930, when they were able to enter the basement unit of the new church. In 1934 the auditorium was constructed, which was dedicated with appropriate services on Sunday, October 28, with Doctors F. E. Fribley, P. B. Smith and E. T. Franklin as guest preachers for the occasion.

At the beginning of the conference year in April, 1936, the indebtedness was $12,054.50, comprised of some fifty odd accounts. A year and a half later, forty seven accounts had been settled in full with a debt reduction of more than $2,850.00, leaving a debt balance of about $9,225.00, most of which was financed with our own denominational

Board of Church Extension. The "Kumjoinus Class Room" was added in 1937 making an excellent church parlor.

In 1948 the Sanctuary was decorated at a cost of $1,086.00. A new roof was put on the main part of the church in 1950 at a cost of $390.00. The Sanctuary was refurnished with new pews and chancel drapes, communion table, altar, pulpit and lectern at a cost of $3,761.50. In the same year a new Wurlitzer Organ with chimes and a piano to match the pews was purchased at a cost of $6,571.50. The parsonage was remodeled and the down stairs was carpeted.

Realizing that a church must move forward in order to do the work of Christ, a new adventure was started on September 30, 1951 when a dinner meeting was held and a building fund for expansion was started. Two years later on November 10, 1953, a Building Reserch Committee was organized for the purpose of making preliminary survey of needs for expanding present building facilities. The question of location was considered. This Committee in its final meeting, recommended that we stay in our present location; that we go to a building program of remodeling for our Sunday School needs and improving the entrance to the Sanctuary.

On April 12, 1955 a Building Committee and an Advisory Committee were appointed. The first meeting of the Building Committee met February 1, 1956 with Rev. L. Lyle Case acting as Chairman. Rev. Case read Matthew 6:33 and afterwards each man asked for God's leading. The following officers were elected: Clifford Baxter, Chairman; Wayne Davis, Vice-Chairman; and Robert Johnson, Secretary. Thru many long hours of meetings and periods of waiting, this committee provided us with a plan to fit our needs. Bids were opened July 1, 1959. Contracts were signed July 31, 1959.

Groundbreaking services were held August 9, 1959 with Rev. L. Lyle Case and Dr. Byron F. Stroh presiding. The construction was started September 15, 1959. The old sanctuary was remodled by making it into two floors. The first floor contained one large department class room, a chapel resembling our old sanctuary, a pastor's study and rest rooms. The second floor contained three large class rooms.

The south wing was taken down to the first floor and rebuilt with blocks and brick. This was converted into three large classrooms, one of which was a nursery. A new sanctuary was built to the east of the educational unit. This sanctuary was constructed of the same type brick of our old

unit with a beautiful limestone front. A eight foot mahogany cross was placed on the inside at the front of the sanctuary to remind those who came to worship of the One who died for them. A new hot water oil furnace with zone heating was installed to replace our old boiler type furnace. The Methodist Men took upon themselves the task of redecorating the existing rooms and hallways.

The first service in the new sanctuary was held on Easter Sunday 1960. A parking lot was purchased in 1958 for $10,542.00 and was graded and surfaced with asphalt in the fall of 1962 at a cost of $8,300.00

Consecration Service was held January 8, 1961 with Bishop Richard C. Raines bringing the message. An open house was held in the afternoon from 3 until 5 o'clock. During this time pictures taken before and during construction were shown.

Now that our beautiful new sanctuary is completed and we have a lovely educational unit, we as members of Christ are looking ahead to better ways that we can serve the people of this area. We always want to send a spiritual beacon light out to the people from the Pittsburgh Street hill. What hath God wrought through it all? We can answer that God and the church have wrought courage and comfort through it all.

PASTORAL RECORD

M. C. Cooper	1887 - 1890
Henry Bridge	1891 - 1892
J. W. Pascall	1893 - 1894
J. M. Stewart	1895 -
M. C. Cooper	1896 - 1899
B. Sawyer	1900 - 1902
Lewis L. Rehl	1903 - 1905
H. S. Nickerson	1906 - 1907
C. M. Hobbs	1908 - 1909
C. W. Jeffras	1910 - 1911
F. H. Cremean	1912 - 1915
L. M. Krider	1916 - 1917
J. E. Luty	1918 - 1919
Preston Polhemus	1920 - 1924
Ivan R. Godwin	1925 - 1927
Harley Davis	1928 - 1933
J. I. Meyer	1934 - 1935
Chas. F. Pegram	1936 - 1938
Chas. A. Byrt	1939 - 1946
H. H. Hashberger	1947 - 1952
L. Lyle Case	1953 - 1960
Earl W. Sharp	1961 -

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A Word from your Pastor

Nehemiah 4:6 says " . . .for the people had a mind to work." How many laymen at St. Paul have worked and given sacrificially that there might be an effective Methodist witness for Christ on the east side of Fort Wayne!

It has been my privilege to be pastor of St. Paul over the past 18 months. This year and a half has gone by quickly. I can say that being pastor here has been a rewarding experience. I want to express to all the people of St. Paul my personal congratulations for the seventy-five years that St. Paul has been a witness in this community.

We look forward to the next 25 years to the time of the 100th Anniversary with keen anticipation. We look backward only that the future might be more glorious for our Lord.

Putting one hand into the hand of God and the other stretched out to meet our neighbor's hand in Christian love, let us walk with confidence into the future.

We find by losing

We save by spending

We grow rich by giving.

The Apostle Paul said, " . . . but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14.

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The names appearing on the membership roll were gathered from the membership rolls of the church. In spite of careful checking there may be mistakes. We ask your help in makiing any corrections that need to be made.

There are many persons whose names do not appear on the membership list of the church. We have hundreds of persons who are recorded on our records as "constituent members". If we as a church can be of help to you , call on us at any time.

The Editor

" To all who mourn and need comfort; to all who are lonely and want friendship; to all who are tempted and need strength; to all who sin and need a Saviour, this church opens wide her doors and in the name of Christ bids you welcome"